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Environment and sustainable development: implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa

Venezuela:* draft resolution

Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 56/196 of 21 December 2001 and other resolutions relating to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa,[1]

Expressing its deep appreciation to the Government of Italy for the organization of the first session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention in Rome at the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, from 11 to 22 November 2002,

Welcoming the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002, inter alia, the subsections on desertification of the Plan of Implementation of the Summit, in particular paragraph 39 (f),

Welcoming also the outcomes of the second Assembly of the Global Environment Facility held in Beijing from 16 to 18 October 2002, particularly the adoption of land degradation, primarily desertification and deforestation, as a new focal area of the Facility,

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

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Recognizing the strong commitment of the international community demonstrated at the World Summit for Sustainable Development and the second Assembly of the Global Environment Facility to making the Facility a financial mechanism of the Convention and, in this regard, the need for the Conference of the Parties to the Convention as the supreme body of the Convention to take the necessary decision to that effect at its next ordinary session in 2003, so as to promote the effective implementation of the Convention,

Expressing its deep appreciation for the generous offer of the Government of Cuba to host the sixth ordinary session of the Conference of the Parties, to be held in Havana, in September 2003,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[2]

2. *Welcomes* the decision taken by the second Assembly of the Global Environment Facility that the Facility shall be available to serve as a financial mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa,[1] if the Conference of the Parties to the Convention should so decide, and requests the Council of the Facility to consider any such decision of the Conference of the Parties with a view to making the necessary arrangements;

3. *Calls upon* the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its sixth session to be held in Havana in September 2003, responding to the call of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the decision of the second Assembly of the Global Environment Facility, to request the Facility to become a financial mechanism of the Convention and requests the Council of the Facility at its forthcoming meeting in November 2003 to make the necessary arrangements in this regard;

4. *Encourages* the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the Council and Assembly of the Global Environment Facility to continue to collaborate closely and effectively to facilitate the financing of the full implementation of the Convention by the Facility so as to fully achieve the objectives of the Convention in the area of land degradation, primarily desertification and deforestation;

5. *Invites* the Council of the Global Environment Facility at its May 2003 meeting to adopt the Operational Programme for the Prevention and Control of Desertification through Sustainable Land Management;

6. *Emphasizes* that, in the light of the ongoing assessment of the implementation of the Convention, the affected developing-country parties need the full support of the Global Environment Facility and other partners for enabling activities in order to assist them in meeting their obligations under the Convention;

7. *Welcomes* the successful third replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund and calls upon countries in a position to do so to make additional contributions in order to enable the Facility to continue to be responsive to the needs and concerns of recipient countries;

8. *Notes with appreciation* the increased number of developing-country parties that have adopted their national, subregional and regional action programmes and urges affected developing-country parties that have not yet done so to accelerate

[2] A/57/177.

the process of elaboration and adoption of their action programmes with a view to finalizing them as soon as possible;

9. *Calls upon* the international community to contribute to the implementation of those programmes through the bilateral and multilateral cooperation programmes that are available to implement the Convention, including contributions from non-governmental organizations and the private sector, and to support the efforts of the developing countries to implement the Convention;

10. *Invites* all parties to pay promptly and in full the contributions required for the core budget of the Convention for the biennium 2002-2003, and urges all parties that have not yet paid their contributions for the year 1999 and/or the biennium 2000-2001 to do so as soon as possible in order to ensure continuity in the cash flow required to finance the ongoing work of the Conference of the Parties, the secretariat and the Global Mechanism;

11. *Calls upon* Governments, multilateral financial institutions, regional development banks, regional economic integration organizations and all other interested organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to contribute generously to the General Fund, the Supplementary Fund and the Special Fund, in accordance with the relevant paragraphs of the financial rules of the Conference of the Parties[3] and welcomes the financial support already provided by some countries;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make provision for the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies, including the seventh ordinary session of the Conference of the Parties and the meetings of its subsidiary bodies, in his proposal for the programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005;

13. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

14. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session the sub-item entitled "Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa".

[3] ICCD/COP (1)/11/Add.1 and Corr.1, decision 2/COP.1, annex, paras. 7-11.